

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A decorative laminate having durable antimicrobial properties, comprising:

an overlay sheet impregnated with a melamine resin including a dispersion; a first antimicrobial agent in said dispersion, said first antimicrobial agent being an isothiazolone based compound selected from the group consisting of 1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one; N-butyl-1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one,2-octyl-isothiazolone; 4,5-dichloro-2-N-octyl-3(- 2H)-isothiazolone; methyl-3(2H)-isothiazolone; and chloro-2-methyl-3(2H)-isothiazolone;

a printed paper sheet impregnated with a melamine formaldehyde; and a high density core fiberboard impregnated with a phenolic resin or a melamine resin.

13. (Previously Presented) The decorative laminate of claim 12, further comprising:

a second antimicrobial agent.

14. (Currently Amended) The decorative laminate of claim 12 13 wherein the second antimicrobial agent is one of: triclosan; ortho phenyl phenol; diiodomethyl p-tolylsulfone; zinc pyrithione; sodium pyrithione; an azole; poly (hexamethylene biguanide) hydrochloride; 3,4, 4'-trichlorocarbanilide; silver, copper or zinc in zeolite; or silver, copper or zinc in amorphous glass powder.

15. (Currently Amended) The decorative laminate of claim 12, further comprising:

a second high density core fiberboard impregnated with a phenolic resin or a melamine resin.

16. (Currently Amended) The decorative laminate of claim 12 wherein said laminate is cured in a press at a pressure in the range of about 1000 psi to about 1500 psi and a temperature in the range of about 170°C to about 210° C.

17. (Previously Presented) The decorative laminate of claim 16 wherein said laminate is cured at a temperature of about 190° C.

18. (Previously Presented) The decorative laminate as claimed in claim 12 wherein the weight percent addition of the antimicrobial agent is about 0.1% to about 5 % of the weight of the melamine resin.

19. (Previously Presented) The decorative laminate as claimed in claim 18 wherein the weight percent addition of the antimicrobial agent is about 0.3 to about 1.0% of the weight of the melamine resin.

20. (Currently Amended) A laminate article, comprising:
an overlay sheet impregnated with a melamine resin including a dispersion;
an isothiazolone-based first antimicrobial agent in said dispersion, the isothiazolone-based first antimicrobial agent selected from the group consisting of 1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one; N-butyl-1,2-benzisothiazolin- -3-one,2-octyl-isothiazolone; 4,5-dichloro-2-N-octyl-3(- 2H)-isothiazolone; methyl-3(2H)-isothiazolone; and chloro-2-methyl-3(2H)-isothiazolone;
a decorative paper sheet impregnated with a melamine formaldehyde; and
a substrate.

21. (Previously Presented) The laminate article of claim 20 wherein the article is one of a countertop, a tabletop, a desktop, or a flooring article.

22. (Previously Presented) The laminate article of claim 20, further comprising:

a second antimicrobial agent.

23. (Currently Amended) The laminate article of claim 20 22 wherein the second antimicrobial agent is one of: triclosan; ortho phenyl phenol; diiodomethyl p-tolylsulfone; zinc pyrithione; sodium pyrithione; an azole; poly (hexamethylene biguanide) hydrochloride; 3,4, 4'-trichlorocarbanilide; silver, copper or zinc in zeolite; or silver, copper or zinc in amorphous glass powder.

24. (Previously Presented) The laminate article of claim 20, further comprising:

a second high density core fiberboard impregnated with a phenolic resin or a melamine resin.

25. (Currently Amended) The laminate article of claim 20 wherein said laminate is cured in a press at a pressure in the range of about 1000 psi to about 1500 psi and a temperature in the range of about 170°C to about 210° C.

26. (Previously Presented) The laminate article of claim 25 wherein said laminate is cured at a temperature of about 190° C.

27. (Previously Presented) The laminate article as claimed in claim 20 wherein the weight percent addition of the antimicrobial agent is about 0.1% to about 5 % of the weight of the melamine resin.

28. (Previously Presented) The laminate article as claimed in claim 27 wherein the weight percent addition of the antimicrobial agent is about 0.3 to about 1.0% of the weight of the melamine resin.

29-35. (Canceled)